

Amendments to the Specification

On page 4, please amend the paragraph beginning at line 23 as follows:

This problem is solved by a switching element with ~~the features of the independent claim 1 and a method with the features of the independent claim 22~~ a high temperature superconductor and an irradiating assembly for irradiating electromagnetic energy onto the high temperature semiconductor. Another aspect of the invention is directed to a method of switching a high temperature superconductor that includes providing the high temperature superconductor in a superconducting state and irradiating the high temperature superconductor with electromagnetic energy until the high temperature superconductor switches into a normal conducting state.